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INFO RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0259  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0118

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DEPARTMENT FOR SES-O, SES-O WATCH, DS COMMAND CENTER,  
DS/IP/NEA FKETCHEM, JCREHAN AND JLEAZIER, ITAJMEANS AND  
NEA/ARP WROEBUCK AND ABAGWELL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/18/2018

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: THREE BELGIANS KILLED IN ATTACK IN HADRAMOUT

Classified By: RSO William Mellot for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) At approximately 2:30 PM local time, January 18 in Wadi Dowan in the governorate of Hadramout a four-car convoy carrying Belgian tourists was attacked by armed men. PSO in Makulla reported that two or three of the Belgian tourists were killed, as was one Yemeni driver. One tourist and one Yemeni were reported to be seriously injured. At around 5:00 PM local time RSO received a report that the twelve remaining Belgian tourists had been kidnapped. Just prior to 5:00 PM local time the Governor of Hadramaut publicly called the incident a terrorist attack.

12. (S) At 4:40 PM post received a telephone call from Mohammed Sodam in the office of President Saleh passing a direct message from the President to the Ambassador requesting assistance with satellite imagery to monitor the main entrances to the governorate. The appropriate office was notified and is coordinating with the ROYG. DAO reports that the ROYG has also requested naval assistance and intelligence assistance in pursuing this case.

13. (C) At approximately 6:45 PM local time, a Ministry of Interior source told RSO that the kidnapped tourists had been released and were on their way to Sana'a. Michel van-Campen Political/Security officer at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Yemen told POLOFF at 6:50 that he was on his way to Sana'a Airport to receive the returning tourists. (Note: The Royal Netherlands Embassy represents Belgium's interests in Sana'a. End Note.) Van Campen told POLOFF that there had been no kidnapping attempt. DAO sources also confirm this. He further verified that two of the tourists had been killed and one was seriously injured. He was unable to confirm the number of Yemenis killed or injured. He said that, with the exception of the seriously injured traveler, he expected all of the survivors to return to their home country this evening or tomorrow morning.

14. (U) Post will hold an EAC meeting on Sunday, January 20 to discuss the incident and its impact on future embassy travel in the region.  
SECHE